

Savannah Morning News

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RISING STARS
AASU women are hungry for a victory over North Florida in the South Atlantic Regional.
Sports, Page 1C

25 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ST. PADDY'S
Study our survival tips from party vets and avoid an embarrassing holiday faux pas.
Diversions, Page 4V



Terrorists bomb 4 Madrid trains

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar: 'March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy'

CASUALTIES



Explosions kill more than 192, injure more than 1,400

RESPONSIBILITY



Spain investigates ETA and al-Qaida splinter group

REACTION



Protestors march worldwide; three days of mourning declared

By Mar Roman
The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400. Spain at first blamed Basque separatists but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and was Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan



Paul White/The Associated Press

Firefighters carry a body on a stretcher from a bomb-damaged passenger train after a number of explosions in Madrid early Thursday, just three days before Spain's general elections. The blasts are considered the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Accrediting body won't investigate school district – yet

SACS vows to monitor the Savannah-Chatham school board and wants a full progress report later this year.

INSIDE

- More on Roger Allen's accusations against the Savannah-Chatham County school board.
- What is SACS?

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By Jennifer Smith Richards
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A team of investigators won't scrutinize whether the board of education meddles in day-to-day school business.

But a review team from the state's only school accrediting agency will be watching from afar, says a late February letter from SACS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"By not sending a team in now, we're not saying we're not continuing to be concerned," said Mark Elgart, executive director of the SACS commission on secondary and middle schools. "We're saying at this stage, the best interest of the school district is our concern."

Schools Superintendent John F. O'Sullivan Jr. also must send the agency a report by Oct. 1

detailing ways the board has avoided interfering with daily operations.

"I'll respond truthfully, whatever the case is," O'Sullivan said. "I'm not surprised about the continued monitoring. I would be very surprised if it ended in one year, because that's the way they tend to operate."

Complying with SACS' request is important. It has the power to strip a school or district of its accreditation, which would devalue a diploma or certificate of graduation. Graduates of unaccredited high schools are not eligible for the HOPE scholarship.

The agency's query began last fall, when a parent accused the school board of overstepping its bounds when building the district's budget.

Roger Allen, a longtime

see INVESTIGATION, page 6A

Racial profiling bill up for House vote today

By Kristen Wyatt
The Associated Press



GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ATLANTA — A proposed law that would require police to note the gender and race of every motorist they pull over is scheduled for a vote in the Georgia House today.

The bill is aimed at stopping racial profiling, or the illegal police practice of stopping drivers because of their race, not because they're suspected of doing anything wrong.

"We should make sure that when people are stopped, it's because of probable cause," said Rep. Tyrone Brooks, D-Atlanta and sponsor of the bill.

The measure won't be an easy sell. Police groups point out that it's already illegal to pull over drivers without cause and to harass people of any certain racial

group. Police also complain it would be expensive to record and catalog the race of every motorist in traffic stops.

Under the bill, an officer would be required to record the gender and race of every person in the car, and write down why the car was pulled over and whether the vehicle was searched.

All the note-taking, police groups complain, would bog down officers with paperwork.

"Basically you'd have to interview every person in every car, asking them what race they are and so on," said Frank V. Rotondo,

see PROFILING, page 7A

HOME EDITION



Light of the Coastal Empire

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WEATHER



Melissa McAlpine, 8
Calvary Day School
Today: Sunny. High 70, low 40.
• Complete report, 2A

CORRECTION

A "maul" is a loose formation brought around a rugby player in possession of the ball who has not been brought to the ground. A story in Thursday's Out section misspelled the term. If you spot an error of fact, call Dan Suwyn, managing editor, at 652-0322.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY FACT

After vandals turned fountains green with an unknown dye, former Park and Tree director Don Gardner suggested that the city hold a coloration ceremony as part of the St. Patrick's Day celebration. The ceremony has been held since 1984.

TODAY: The Greening of the Fountain will take place at noon today in Forsyth Park.

Online medicine fraud threatens health

Shop at your own risk when bargain-hunting for prescription drugs.

By Anne Hart
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Conquer your sexual fears with Viagra. Need Vicodin for pain? As Internet drug trade grows, more e-mail spam arrives hawk-ing a medicine chest of drugs.

Most are suspect, promising cheap drugs with no doctor visits, no waiting rooms and free

delivery. Some dubious sites offer a doctor to write prescriptions based on a quick consultation. Others don't ask for one, nor do they have a physician involved.

Many cash-strapped consumers believe bargain-hunting on the Internet beats shelling out big bucks for pricey prescription drugs in the United States. But discounted drugs ordered on rogue Internet sites are risky.

The drugs could be fake, brand-name knockoffs or contain altered ingredients, says Cherry Jackson, professor and assistant dean for admissions and student affairs at

INSIDE

- Tips for buying prescription drugs online.
- Certified online pharmacies.

Page 7A

the school of pharmacy at South University in Savannah.

"They could be selling capsules full of cornstarch to someone who thinks they are getting heart or diabetes medication," Jackson says. "You may not realize it until you have a heart attack or go into a diabetic coma."

see MEDICINE, page 7A



At this price, they'll be gone in a flash. Only \$99⁹⁹ after \$160 instant savings. Sprint PCS Vision™ Picture Phone with flash



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